

U.N. considering pressure on Iran

DAVOS, Switzerland (R) — The United Nations Security Council is considering a new resolution to add pressure on Iran to agree to a ceasefire in the Gulf war, a senior U.S. official said Sunday. Vernon Walters, Washington's ambassador to the U.N., told a news conference that the Security Council was considering a British proposal for a follow-up to Resolution 598, which demanded a ceasefire and threatened sanctions. Walters did not describe the British draft in detail but said: "We are trying to do something along this line. When we have worked something out, we will go to the secretary-general, (Javier Perez de Cuellar), and the whole membership to see if they can add anything that is agreeable." Walters, in Davos for the annual World Economic Forum, said he had a hunch fighting in the Gulf would end by April or May. "There's a certain amount of exhaustion on both sides," he said. "I think Iran is finally getting the message on the U.N. resolution." Asked on what he based his prediction, he said: "It's a personal hunch, influenced perhaps by hope." In London, a British Foreign Office spokesman said the permanent members of the Security Council were considering more than one text of a proposal for a follow-up resolution.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation

جريدة عربية سياسية عن المؤسسة العربية الأردنية للرأي

PLO delegation ends visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) left Amman Sunday at the end of a four-day visit to Jordan for talks with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and other ministers. The talks covered all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and means of ensuring a just and durable settlement to the Middle East problem, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. During the talks both sides underlined the importance of coordination between Jordan and the PLO through the Arab League's seven-member committee set up by Arab foreign ministers during their last meeting in Tunis. The committee aims at serving the cause of the Arab people under Israeli rule, ending occupation and supporting the Arab uprising in the occupied territories. The PLO delegation comprised members of the Executive Committee Mahmoud Abbas and Abdullah Al Hourani. They were seen off by Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dardin and other Jordanian officials, as well as PLO representative in Jordan Abdul Razzak Al Yahya.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is sworn in as Regent before His Majesty King Hussein Sunday on the eve of His Majesty's

departure for Italy at the beginning of a visit to several European countries (Petra photo)

King begins talks in Rome on first leg of visit to Europe

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches
ROME — His Majesty King Hussein held talks with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti here Sunday on the latest developments in the Middle East and efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is sworn in as Regent before His Majesty King Hussein Sunday on the eve of His Majesty's departure for Italy at the beginning of a visit to several European countries (Petra photo)

Protesters battle Israeli troops with stones; six more shot and wounded

Occupied Jerusalem (Agencies) — At least six Palestinian protesters were shot and wounded and scores were injured after being beaten up or inhaling tear-gas Sunday as Palestinian anti-occupation protests that began Dec. 9 showed no signs of let-up.

Israeli soldiers clashed with demonstrators in several towns and villages in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, including the site of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.

The daily newspaper Haaretz said Israeli officials were convinced the uprising would continue for a long time to come.

Troops clamped curfews on the town of Nablus and several refugee camps in the occupied territories.

Some churches in Arab Jerusalem and the West Bank held a day of mourning for the Palestinians shot dead by Israelis since the revolt began Dec. 9.

An army spokesman said troops were forced to open fire in the Palestinian refugee camp of Jalazoun, north of Ramallah, when tear-gas and rubber bullets failed to halt stone-throwing demonstrators advancing on an army patrol. Troops placed the

camp under curfew.

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In Nablus, staff at the Al Ittihad hospital told Reuters they were treating five Palestinians shot in the legs, stomach and back.

In Nablus, the largest city in the West Bank, violent clashes continued for the second day Sunday and the army clamped a curfew on parts of the city and the nearby Balata refugee camp.

Israeli forces Saturday shot and wounded at least 20 Arabs in Nablus and elsewhere in the occupied territories.

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Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Hajj Hassan Sunday meets with Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority Mahmoud Balqez (left) and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Civil Aviation Corporation Ali Othman Ziko for talks on bilateral cooperation in air transport and tourism (Petra photo)

Jordan, Egypt discuss air transport links

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt Sunday opened talks on promoting bilateral cooperation in air transport and tourism.

The Jordanian side to the three-day meeting is led by Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority (JVA) Mahmoud Balqez, while the Egyptian side is led by Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Civil Aviation Corporation Ali Othman Ziko.

Balqez and Ziko are accompanied by officials from their departments in the talks which are a continuation of negotiations held

Japan allocates first part of \$300m soft loan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Japanese Fund for Overseas Economic Assistance has agreed in principle to finance a number of projects in Jordan at a cost of JD 25 million, according to Secretary-General of the Ministry of Public Works Khalaf Huwari.

Agreement was reached Sunday during a meeting between Huwari and a delegation representing the Japanese fund. Dis-

ussions during the meeting centred on the implementation of these projects which includes dams, roads and irrigation canals. The two sides agreed that work on these projects would begin before the end of the year.

Japanese embassy sources said that the JD 25 million is part of a \$300 million soft loan to Jordan approved by the Japanese government last October.

King begins talks in Rome

(Continued from page 1)

latest issue of the West German *Der Spiegel* magazine, the King reaffirmed Jordan's stand that U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 should be the basis for convening the international conference since the two U.N. documents enshrine the inadmissibility of acquisition of land by force.

In the interview, which was conducted in Amman Wednesday, the King said the problem was not the issue of the Arab lands occupied since 1967 but the need to find a solution to the Palestinian problem in all its aspects. The King said the proposed international conference should be held under U.N. auspices with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). He said attendance at the conference should be contingent on acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338, renunciation of violence and acceptance of a solution to the Palestinian problem in all its dimensions and aspects.

Joint delegation

On the possibility of a joint Jordanian-PLO delegation to the proposed peace conference, the King said Jordan was still acting in accordance with the Feb. 11, 1985 agreement between the Kingdom and the PLO. The agreement, he noted, had crystallised the idea of a joint delegation.

The King added that it was Jordan which proposed the international conference and he emphasised the need for convening it, giving the Palestinians the opportunity to participate in the search for a solution to their problem. Jordan proposed inviting the PLO to the called-for conference on equal footing with Jordan and provided the ground for forming a joint Jordanian-PLO delegation, the King said.

Mubarak arrives in Paris

(Continued from page 1)

Washington, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz repeated the U.S. position that the way to achieve peace in the Middle East was through direct talks, and said the United States would pursue any avenue to achieve them, including an international conference.

"In the past, Israel used to say that it was looking for a partner to negotiate with. Today, it is evident that this partner is either," Mubarak said Saturday.

In Washington, a Mubarak aide dismissed new proposals for Palestinian "autonomy" by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as "gimmicks."

Speaking to Israel Radio's correspondents in the U.S. capital, Mubarak's political adviser, Osama Al Baz, said Shamir's ideas were unacceptable to the Arabs.

Cabinet approves modifications of water, Jordan Valley authorities

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet announced Sunday its endorsement of a draft amendment to laws on the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) and the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA).

According to the two amendments, the WAJ and JVA will no longer be linked to the prime minister's office; instead, the two authorities will be connected with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, and a board of directors will be set up to govern them. Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakkhan will be chairman of this board, according to the announcement.

The amendment stated that the Ministry of Water and Irrigation would be wholly responsible for

water and sewerage projects in the Kingdom, and would work out a water strategy to be submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

The ministry will also draw up general regulations and principles for developing water resources in Jordan, as well as protecting the water from contamination. The WAJ will be in charge of improving the quality of potable water, controlling water use and ensuring additional water sources through purification or distillation, the announcement said.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the announcement added, will supervise the drilling of private artesian wells and organise the exploitation of under-

ground water resources, as well as study and carry out water and sewerage projects.

The board of directors will include the minister as chairman of the board and the secretaries general of the ministries of planning, agriculture, municipal affairs, health, industry and trade, the directors general of the Budget Department and the secretaries general of the WAJ and JVA.

According to the Cabinet announcement, the JVA amendment cancels the post of JVA president, with the president becoming secretary general. In addition, the authority will be reshuffled and reorganised.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammad meets with Rifai

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Sunday held a meeting with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai at the prime minister's office.

NAF aid benefits needy in Salt

SALT (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) branch here last year distributed a total of JD 104,136 to 424 needy families, according to Director of the Salt Social Development Department Khaled Ghneim. He said that his department conducted studies on 15 needy families who needed urgent help and offered them a total of JD 1,170.

Jordan to take part in Islamic panel

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the fourth meeting on Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh) which will open in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia Saturday. The week-long meeting will discuss the question of zakat (alms to the poor) and a number of other religious issues. Jordan will be represented at the meeting by Secretary-General of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abadi and Director of Haram Al Sharif Sheikh Mohammad Abu Shaqra.

Iraqis hit Iran-linked ships

(Continued from page 1)

However, the King said he had noted with bitterness the influence of extremist Israelis on American policymakers and how this influence has paralysed U.S. action.

On Europe, His Majesty said the European countries, which are closest to the Middle East, also had many interests in the region and therefore had a major role in ensuring peace and stability in the area.

The King reaffirmed his belief that the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories is the natural reaction to Israel's occupation and oppressive practices. This movement, he said, as it has become clear to the Israelis and the world at large, has been initiated by the people of the occupied territories and was not linked to any external source as Israel claims. There is a new dynamism in action in the occupied territories, he said. The solution lies in a thorough review of all positions and recognition of the legitimate rights of people in their homeland, the King added.

Upon their departure from Amman for Italy Sunday, Their Majesties were seen off by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Princess Taghreed, Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, members of the royal family, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and senior officials.

Prior to the King's departure, Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent. The Crown Prince returned to Amman earlier Sunday at the end of a visit to Switzerland where he led Jordan's delegation to the 1988 World Economic Forum and met with a number of world economic and political figures.

Returning with Prince Hassan was the Jordanian delegation that accompanied him to Davos.

U.S. said suggesting 'self-rule'

(Continued from page 1)

to happen after the period of the autonomy will bring both parties to the same differences that exist all the time," he said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc opposes returning any of the lands occupied in the 1967 war to Arab sovereignty.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's Labour Party favours "territorial compromise" as part of a settlement.

Israel Radio said Shamir told

us when we are trying to build a bridge between the people of the region and Iran," the radio quoted Sharara as saying.

"Does it please Baghdad that Iraqi ships are attacked... and the region's security is threatened? Is it right to drag the countries of the region into an unwanted war?"

Members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — agreed earlier this month to hold dialogue with Iran after intensive Syrian diplomatic activity.

No date has been set for the talks but Iranian officials have said they would be held in Abu Dhabi soon.

Iraq assails Security Council

Iraq accused the U.N. Security Council Sunday of bowing to Iranian extortion by failing to get Tehran to accept its order for a Gulf war ceasefire.

"It is a real shame for the biggest world body, the Security Council, to submit to extortion by the notorious and terrorist regime in Iran," Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan wrote in the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra.

Ramadan described as an "unclean attitude" an appeal by some permanent members of the Security Council for Iraq to be flexible towards the implementation of the ceasefire resolution.

Baath's government-controlled media attacked Damascus last week for its attempts to bring together Iran and the Arab Gulf states, which generally support Iraq in the seven-year-old war. "We are surprised that Iraqi officials make such moves against

the cabinet that the Reagan administration had promised to coordinate its diplomacy closely with Israel, and ministers would be allowed a full-scale debate before any Israeli response was formulated.

The radio quoted Peres as saying he was pleased the United States was playing a more active role in the search for peace.

U.S. envoy Philip Habib left Jordan Sunday after giving King Hussein a message from President Reagan.

OBITUARY

The Department of Antiquities, the Planning Committee of the Conferences of the History and Archaeology of Jordan, and the Friends of Archaeology sadly announce the death of:

Dr. Denis Baly

Professor of Biblical and Historical Geography of the Near East at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, USA. Dr. Baly was a prominent scholar and a man who loved Jordan and its people. He will be much missed by all his friends and fellow scholars.

Dudin explains slow pace in aid to occupied territories, foresees quicker spending

By John Rice
Associated Press

AMMAN — The official in charge of Jordan's aid to Palestinians under Israeli occupation Saturday outlined the assistance programme and promised larger projects to come.

"We are not spending quickly because the recipients are not consuming quickly" due to lack of familiarity with programme guidelines, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin told AP.

Jordan last year launched a proposed \$1 billion five-year programme of aid to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, aimed at pumping in money to help Palestinians resist economic pressures to leave their lands.

Palestinian frustration erupted in early December in a seven-week-long wave of demonstrations and clashes with Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank and Ramallah.

Dudin said administrative and business skills had eroded during the Israeli occupation, and Jordan hoped its programme would develop them, thus speeding spending.

"In 20 years of occupation, entrepreneurship in the acceptable sense of the word is not there. You have small contractors, people who can do things and take five times more (time than) what an entrepreneur who is a capable contractor can do," he said.

But Dudin added, "we create jobs, work opportunities, better water systems, better electricity systems, better roads... We help in the building of schools, especially in the villages."

He said Israeli procedures sometimes delay projects, and



Marwan Dudin added, "the local, small leaderships are themselves not very well qualified... We want to revive their ability to work as village leaders or city leaders." He did not elaborate.

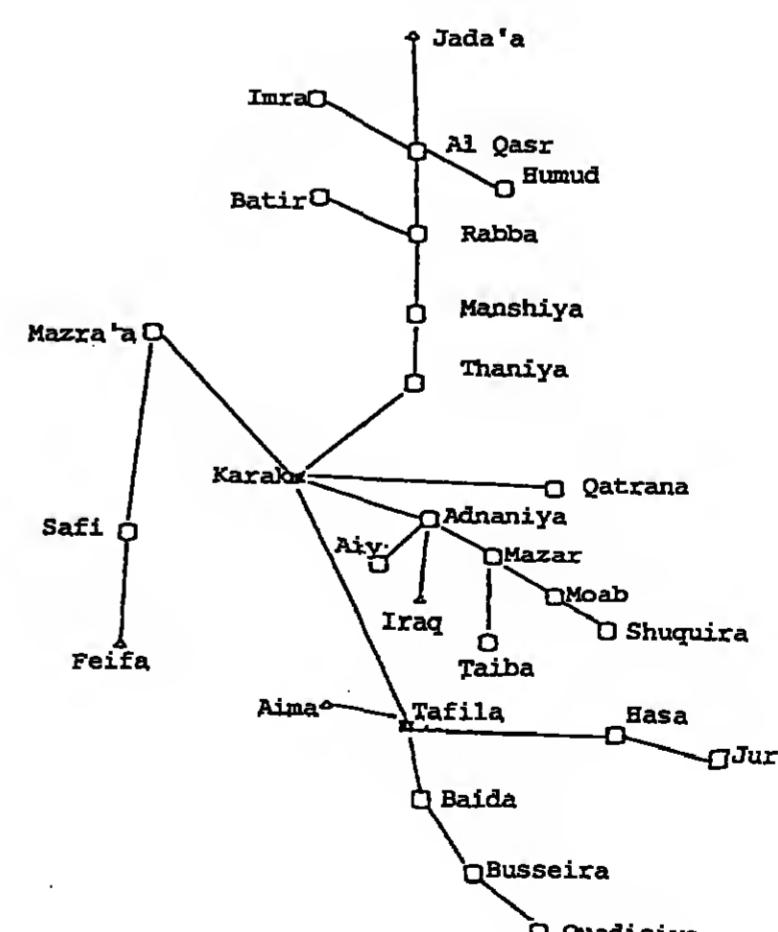
In addition to the development funds, Dudin said Jordan last year spent more than JD 9 million in salaries and allowances for some 2,800 Jordanian civil servants remaining from before 1967.

It also continues to operate Islamic institutions in the West Bank, paying the salaries of thousands of workers and maintaining mosques.

Dudin said Jordan had renewed last year's decision to pay JD 4.8 million to supplement the salaries of 10,300 teachers hired since 1967.

Jordan also continues to aid workers who went on strike when Israel seized the lands 20 years ago. That includes JD 300,000 every two months for lawyers and JD 175,000 yearly for Jerusalem municipal workers. Director of Development and Planning for the Occupied Territories Saadallah said.

To the Telecommunications Corporation: CONGRATULATIONS ON THE INAUGURATION OF The South Rural Telephone Network



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Zionist wheels in motion

THE Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza also appears to have given rise to a systematic anti-Jordanian campaign in the United States aimed at distorting the Kingdom's image. The motivations behind the drive, which shows all hallmarks of hardcore Zionism, are not difficult to guess; they seek to put Jordan in an unfavourable light as possible, so that the Jordanian call for a just and durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and Palestinian problem is blurred and the focus is shifted to what is described as Jordan's "unrealistic demands." Some Zionist leaders are feeding the information media with allegations that Jordan's rejection of direct talks with Israel drove the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to take things into their own hands; hence, the ongoing revolt in the occupied territories. Much more surprising is the way respected American newspapers have joined the bandwagon, leading the smearing campaign.

Notwithstanding the liberal use of empty words of "sympathy" for the Palestinian people, it is clear that Zionist circles in the U.S. find it a golden opportunity to throw mud at Jordan, accusing it of adopting a "negative" attitude towards peace efforts, and portray Israel as the ultimate peace-loving nation. For them, the Jordanian rejection of the American proposal for a direct meeting with Israel during last December's superpower summit was a total rejection of peace talks; thus, they see Jordan as bearing a great responsibility for what is happening in the occupied territories. They try to entice Jordan into an elaborate political trap, and then they cry foul when we refuse to take the bait.

Still, the international community and intelligent and reasonable Americans know that the kind of peace the Zionists are trying to propagate is nothing but an eyewash, and that Jordan was not deviating an inch from its principled stand when it rejected the offer to meet with Israel in Washington.

We suspect, though, that the masterminds behind the ongoing anti-Jordanian drive have not wasted their energies. In their zealous drive, they appear to have gone out of their way, albeit accurately and unintentionally, to convey the message of the Palestinian plight to the American public and underline the urgent need for a Middle East settlement. After all, the effort was not totally wasted. We can only give them a piece of advice: All those "missed opportunities for peace" that you are talking about could never have brought peace to the Middle East, and were just the recipes for further turmoil and instability in the region. Jordan was wise to have sensed the trap from the beginning, and you would now be better off focusing on what Israel, happy to continue the status quo, has been doing to wreck all hopes for peace.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israel's nuclear threat

HIS Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan delivered an extremely important address to the 1988 World Economic Forum on Saturday drawing the world community's attention to the fact that regional conflicts could result in an all out world confrontation. He said if U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Middle East were not implemented, and if the Iran-Iraq war was not halted, no one could predict the consequences. Prince Hassan referred to Israel and said it is a nuclear power which has not signed a treaty to restrict its nuclear capability, and which is pursuing aggressive policies in the Arab region. At present Israel is involved in using the Jewish faith as a tool in its fight against the Arab people in general and the Palestinians in particular. Israel's plans and policies the Prince said, could lead to a major confrontation in the Middle East endangering world peace. Prince Hassan was careful to remind the world community that the recent Amman Arab summit reached resolutions that supported an international peace conference which would end the conflict and bring about a lasting peace. He also said that Jordan was shouldering a heavy burden trying to defend Arab soil and seeking peace based on justice; and struggling to regain for the Palestinians their legitimate rights in their homeland. The Prince's address which dealt with all issues in our region should open the eyes of world nations to the reality in the Middle East and Israel's practices, and prompt them to work for peace.

Al Dustour: Prince warns of regional conflicts

REGIONAL conflicts and the situation in the Middle East were the focus of an address by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland Saturday. The Prince drew world attention to the fact that after 40 years of struggle the Arabs and the Israelis have not yet reached peace and that the Gulf conflict which has been raging for the past eight years seems to be going on without letup. These regional wars the Prince said have brought about many sufferings and caused heavy loss of life and material resources to no avail. Prince Hassan who criticised Israel's practices said that while the world is feeling optimistic about a reduction of nuclear weapons in Europe, the Middle East is set to face a nuclear threat because of Israel's ambitions and as the Jewish state continues to enlarge its nuclear arsenal without any restrictions. Israel he said now monopolises the nuclear arms in the Middle East and there exists no balance of terror that could deter it from launching a nuclear war on the Arabs. Referring to the current uprising in the Israeli occupied Arab land, Prince Hassan noted that it came about as a result of desperation in the hearts of the Arab people under Israeli oppression and as a show of determination for regaining freedom. The Prince emphasised the need for a lasting settlement of the Palestine problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict which could come through an international conference.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S. stalls Security Council

SATURDAY the U.N. Security Council delayed taking any resolution concerning the situation in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. During the session and the debate the U.S. delegate was silent and did not reveal anything about Washington's reaction, nor did he show that the U.S. plans to take some action to defuse the situation or give momentum to the peace process. This attitude shows that the U.S. is totally biased towards Israel and accepts only the Israeli point of view, a stand it has displayed over the past 20 years of Israeli occupation. It is regrettable to see the U.S. succumbing to Israel's will and falling under Zionist pressure and extremist elements in the Israeli government. This attitude is disappointing to all, as King Hussein pointed out in his interview with the Washington Post and on U.S. television network. The King said clearly that the U.S. policies do not serve the interests of the American people, the Arabs, the Israelis and the peace process. The U.S. which is a superpower, should act like one and contribute actively towards the establishment of peace.

Conceiving a political Arab party in Israel

By Waleed Sadi

THE Israeli Labour Party is clearly stunned by the decision of Abdul Wahab Darawsheh to quit the Labour Party and form his and his people's own independent political party. Whether Labour will ever recover from this devastating setback is something that cannot be gauged as yet. To be sure it came at the worst possible time for the Labour Party which was calling for advancing the date of the Israeli elections in order to cash in on the ripples generated by the latest Palestinian popular uprising. One would expect Mr. Shimon Peres, the leader of the Labour Party to conclude that he was too busy in his plea for an earlier date for elections. Obviously, Mr. Peres wishes now that he had not embarked on such manoeuvring and accordingly no new calls for an earlier elections would be forthcoming from his side. He needs all the time the law allows him to recuperate from the severe wound that was dealt to him and his party by Mr. Darawsheh.

What is now uppermost on the minds of Middle East observers is whether such a development on the Israeli political scene would also end up being a severe blow and irreparable setback to the international peace conference idea, of which Mr. Peres was the clear advocate among the Israeli political ranks.

To begin with the Labour Party's political fortunes did not look bright even before the departure of Mr. Darawsheh. All the polls conducted in Israel of late point in the direction of another coalition government being in the offing. While opening new vistas for Palestinian perspectives within Israeli body politic; the Palestinian latest popular uprising also hardened the positions of Israeli hawks who resent giving in to Palestinian nationalism beyond consenting

grudgingly to some kind of self-rule a la Camp David. The uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip seems also to have hardened their opposition to the international conference rather than soften it.

Secondly, the position of Mr. Shimon Peres as the leader of the Labour Party seems to have been undermined in the wake of the Palestinian uprising. The doves within and without the Labour Party seemed to have been disenchanted by Mr. Peres' muted and defensive handling of the Israeli oppressive measures and practices against the Palestinian people. It was made obvious on more than one occasion during the latest episode in the Palestinian struggle for liberty that Mr. Peres and General Yitzhak Rabin, another pillar in the Labour Party, and contender for the throne were on a collision course on many issues affecting the future of the peace process in the Middle East.

In the final analysis how the departure of Mr. Darawsheh from the Labour Party would affect the prospects for the international peace conference would depend on how many seats his projected new party could secure in the Knesset and how he plays his cards afterwards in the ensuing confrontation between the Labour and Likud parties. Being closely linked now to the political sentiments emerging in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and baying made pretensions to speak on their behalf, Mr. Darawsheh's new party would most likely attempt to dictate not only his own version of the international conference but also the projected results of such a conference. This could end up becoming a double barrel setback to Mr. Peres and company.

Be that as it may, the Arabs of Israel have all the right for an independent political party to galvanise the some 320,000 Arab voters into a formidable political machine that the Israeli body politic would have to reckon with. Mr. Darawsheh has hinted that he and his people have been flirting with the idea of an independent political party for some time. The continued frustrations of the Arabs of Israel with the performance of the Labour Party on domestic and regional issues have driven them on more than one occasion up the wall. The latest manhandling of the Palestinian uprising by the Israeli occupying forces was the last straw that tipped the balance in favour of opting for an independent political path. It did not escape the attention of the Arabs of Israel that it was General Rabin, the Labourite minister of defence who orchestrated and executed the oppressive and inhuman way the Israeli troops attempted to quell the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza. The 320,000 Arab votes have yet to be tapped fully in favour of legitimate Arab causes especially those associated with the struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. It was only natural and logical that the Arabs of Israel would feel kinship and comradeship with their people across the so-called "Green Line" separating Israel from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

All this leads one to the conclusion that the newly won independent Arab action on the Israeli political scene must be pursued and played very delicately and wisely lest the new Arab political machine frustrate the overriding Arab aspirations and objectives.

They've brought a new sense of urgency

'A generation that does not fear Israeli bullets'

By Hanna Siniora

FOR THE past few weeks the world's attention has been riveted on the territories occupied by Israel. The significance of what is happening is that the sacrifices of the post-1967 generation of Palestinian youth, paying the ultimate price — their lives — have achieved the seemingly impossible goal of rekindling interest in this long-festering conflict and bringing the Palestinian issue back to the top of the world's agenda.

Various forces had conspired to downgrade the Palestinian problem: The success of the Israeli political body in preserving the status quo, the emergence of the Gulf war as the Arab countries' top priority and the indifference of the international community to a situation put on bold.

Today, thanks to the generation of age, a new generation that does not fear Israeli bullets, we have a whole new situation. There has been a rude awakening not only of Israel's public opinion but of the lethargic, complacent political establishment.

Israelis have made the traditional response in the first weeks of the disturbances: Closing of ranks, a right-wing radicalisation of attitudes, more repressive measures, widespread use of the "iron fist" policies, regardless of human rights infringements. But at the same time there has developed a new sense of urgency, a feeling that the continued occupation by force of 1.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza cannot continue.

The ultimate goal of the uprising is to end the occupation and achieve a separate Palestinian identity based on an independent Palestinian state in the areas occupied by Israel since June 1967.

The first steps have been taken: The status quo has been broken, and the Palestinian case

is back in the forefront of world issues. Yet the long-term effort to achieve a political settlement is just slowly starting.

What is needed in this situation is to discard the conventional, the traditional methods that have not worked in the past. Mubarak, to succeed, must be unorthodox — not committed to a specific way, yet committed to a consensus.

And long and difficult as that effort may prove to be, one thing should be realised from the start: That such a settlement is in the long-term interests of both Israelis and Palestinians. It will put an end to a long history of conflict that began in the early 1900s, and will be the prelude to a new era of economic cooperation and friendly relations. That is what will happen if we can wisely translate this new situation into a new political reality, and by "we" I mean both Palestinians and Israelis. Not only the region will benefit, but also the cause of world peace, at least to the extent that a settlement eases friction between the two superpowers.

To keep attention focused on the situation while the negotiations process advances, a new tool has been introduced into the arena. Whether it is called nonviolent resistance to the occupation, civil disobedience or — probably the most appropriate term — national disobedience, it is important for several reasons.

One is the influence it can have on Israeli opinion. As I have noted, there has in recent weeks been an Israeli backlash caused by the disturbances — a right-wing radicalisation. This is an election year in Israel, and if

changes are to be sought in the policies of the Israeli government, there have to be changes in Israeli attitudes toward the emergence of a Palestinian state. Thus the Israeli grass roots, the Israeli voter, has to be talked to, positively influenced. Such a campaign can do this, because it can also be a campaign the Israeli peace camp can join in through joint demonstrations, sit-ins, meetings and other forms of non-violent action.

Another effect of the disobedience campaign is economic. Certain measures are intended to make the continued holding of the territories unprofitable. One is asking Palestinians to shrink the second biggest Israeli export market (after the United States) by encouraging equivalent local products; a "buy Palestinian" campaign is emerging and other measures are being considered, such as legally not paying taxes.

The political options are many and varied, yet all lead to negotiations under an international conference. In this regard, some action by the superpowers will be essential. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, for example, recently urged before the U.N. Security Council the convening of an international conference under terms of a preparatory arrangement made by the council's five permanent members.

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To keep attention

Regional conflicts: Why they must be of concern to the world

Israel introduced nuclear terror to the Middle East

The following is the full text of an address that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan made on Saturday at the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

CONFLICT is one of the oldest phenomena known to man. It is as old as time itself. And so is its resolution. Man found himself in conflict with his own environment, and with his fellow man. Whether the emergence of a General Will, the Dialectics, or the establishment of a Leviathan, man learnt to resolve his conflicts. He evolved means and procedures for conflict-resolution. Had he not the 17th Century English philosopher, Thomas Hobbes, tells us there would have been "no arts; no letters; no society; and which is worst of all; continual fear and danger of violent death; and the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short." That was the view of the dangers of continued conflict in the 17th Century. In the modern age, chastened by the long experience of wars and hopefully more rational, is it not even more crucial that we be concerned with regional conflicts? They are the most likely source to precipitate a general conflagration which only few of us would survive.

In Europe, where the threat of the dreaded nuclear winter has loomed large for the last forty years, a number of diplomatic rules are laid so that a clash between NATO and the Warsaw Pact could be averted. These rules are observed and maintained and peace has been kept. In the South West Asian region, commonly referred to as the Middle East, conditions are unstable. The situation in its three hotspots is explosive, and no civilised ground rules exist. The peoples of the region live what may best be described as the "dialogue of the deaf." The Palestine problem has expended the energies of three generations of Hashemite rulers. The Gulf war in its eighth year has taken toll of upwards of a million lives. The majority of human casualties in the Lebanon over the past decade or more have been civilian. There are wars in the Nile valley, in Chad, in the Maghreb and in Afghanistan. These flash points, in which the superpowers are involved, fall in and out of NATO and Warsaw Pact region. The irony is that the loss of life on the grand scale to which I have referred is a direct byproduct of the game of nations and could easily spark global confrontation.

South West Asia is one of the most important regions of the world because of its geo-strategic position and its enormous natural resources. However, the language used in political exchanges, the attitudes held and the values cherished, make it impossible to have an acceptable code of conduct. It was in search of this code of conduct that in Geneva in 1983 Jordan worked for the launching of a search for an international humanitarian will ranging from concern for street children to alarm over nuclear winter. In November of last year we presented to the Secretary General of the United Nations the report of the International Commission.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the resolution of all major international crises, sights are turned to Geneva and it is our fervent hope that Geneva would be the venue for an international peace conference on the Middle East. It has long been recognised that regional conflicts have implications beyond the immediate adversaries. These conflicts threaten the stability and security of the entire region. It is clear that their escalation poses a threat to the whole region. The rest of the world cannot remain immune to their ramifications. War by its very nature inflicts a form of psychic paralysis which invites further attrition and loss of life. Left without redress, grievances fester. They come to have what Sir Geoffrey Howe called a "brutalising effect" on both the individual and the community. It gives rise to polarisation which undermines the very fabric of newly emergent polities with fragmentation and eventual disintegration.

The conflict in the Middle East today is not simply between a number of nation-states; it is essentially against the nation-state. It is a war of attrition which seeks to erode the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the current system. The objective is extremely radical, the means are drastic, and the outcome will, no doubt, be to the detriment of all concerned. The aim is to reduce these entities to their component parts so that the only triumphant strand will be politico-religious fundamentalism: Islamic, Christian and Jewish. The peoples of the three monotheistic faiths will be engaged in wars of a bygone age but with extremely modern and highly sophisticated weaponry. Religious fundamentalism is no panacea. It solves no problems, but for people who are left

in a state of limbo, without hope and hardly an expectation, it provides motivation for action. More often than not, it is violent action which produces a similar response; thus the vicious circle of violence and counter-violence. Israel, as the occupying power in Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem is experiencing that, allowing the proclaimed Jewish values to be severely questioned.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace and stability in the Middle East are of paramount importance to the international community as well as to the peoples of the region. Self-interest,

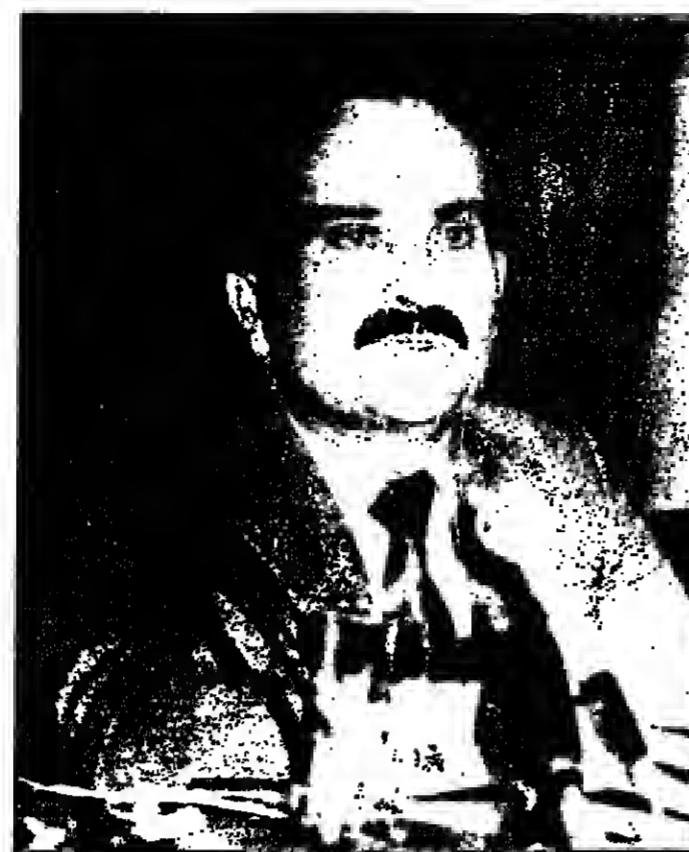
Israel holds a monopoly of nuclear weapons. As such there is no "balance of terror" in the Middle East. Israel's nuclear capability is well known, and delivery systems have been tested too.

geo-politics and the magnitude of the region's oil resources dictate this to be so. However, the imbalance and volatility which characterise the politics of the area point to an obvious conclusion which concerns the position of the two superpowers vying with each other for a universally acknowledged strategic advantage. A cursory examination of the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict will immediately indicate the manipulations of the political dynamics by the Soviet Union in the early 1950s to position itself with power and influence in the affairs of the region. The politics of Iran and the United States have been vivid in your mind to warrant reading in detail.

In the rivalry for strategic supremacy between the two superpowers, a seismic line of political disturbance has staked out the demarcation of direct influence between the West and the Soviet Bloc. This belt extended from the Black Sea to the Caspian. It now runs southward to points from the eastern Mediterranean and the Red Sea to the Gulf and the Indian Ocean. All manner of conflict abounds in this area which has become the touchstone of superpower confrontation. It is an open field where bitter competition is underlined by indigenous, social, economic and political factors. These divisive elements could bring about the total collapse of the last semblance of order and normality.

Despite the conclusion of the INF treaty, which is admittedly the most ambitious arms control treaty since the inception of the nuclear age, the conflicts in the Middle East do not necessarily exclude the deployment and use of nuclear weapons. The region is neither immune nor insulated from the possibility of such a conflagration which may easily involve the superpowers. Such an eventuality is conceivable on the basis of a conventional war degenerating into a nuclear attack by a small country on account of a perceived threat to its national security to overcome the demographic handicap.

Of the local powers, Israel holds a monopoly of nuclear weapons. As such there is no "balance of terror" in the Middle East. Israel's nuclear capability is well known, and delivery systems have been tested too. It is unlikely that Israel would simply opt for a surprise nuclear attack on an Arab country. There are no military or political advantages to be gained from such an operation. But the nuclear option becomes viable for Israel when a conventional war degenerates into a prolonged war of attrition. Continued loss of life coupled with



Jordan occupies the first defence line for the Arab World in the conflict with Israel. In strategic terms we bear the burden of the forward position, both in war and in peace; and we have borne that responsibility with honour and pride.

mounting pressures to cut the conflict short may lead the Israeli political leadership to favour the use of their nuclear arsenal. Under these circumstances there is no guarantee that an operation of this kind would not convince the superpowers to intervene. The other situation which may cause a nuclear war is the deployment and use of increasingly sophisticated missiles of mass destruction by the protagonists which could invite nuclear retaliation under the intense domestic political pressure to render the state safe and secure.

A by-product of the INF treaty will be to place Israel's nuclear capability into sharper focus in the planning of American global strategy. It is bound to intensify the close strategic alliance between the two countries, whereby the United States will not be committed only to the defence of Israel's security, but to the maintenance and reinforcement of its nuclear arsenal. Thus while all intermediate nuclear forces will be eliminated from the European theatre, Israel's nuclear weapons will still be deployed and could be used for the defence of southern Europe. By virtue of its relation with the U.S., Israel will become an auxiliary member of NATO, without having to be subject to the rules and regulations governing the alliance. This paradoxical anomaly offers Israel a certain degree of freedom in the procurement, the deployment and use of various weapon systems, including nuclear ones.

Israel apart, the superpowers maintain a nuclear presence in the region. Until the INF treaty is ratified, the U.S. has these weapons in Turkey. Even after the ratification of the treaty American nuclear weapons will remain aboard nuclear-armed submarines in and around the waters of the South West Asian region. The Soviet Union is on the borders of the region. In 1973 the superpowers almost clashed.

There is nothing to suggest that it could not happen again. Political alignments and personalities have changed since then, and so have the military capabilities of many nations, but the fundamental elements of the situation have not been dramatically altered. Divergent perceptions and assessments of the situation in 1973 led them to the nuclear brink. Since then they have shown a marked inability to influence their regional allies or control the pace of deterioration in the course of any particular conflict. Both super-

powers have dealt with why it should be of concern to the world. What I have not done is to indicate how this concern has been positively translated into moves, measures and proposals, in both the political and economic spheres, to avert the dangers. Admittedly we have not had much success so far, but nonetheless we have been terribly active to deal with the menacing situation.

The multiplicity of conflicts in our region, and the constant threat of a wider conflagration, have served to strengthen our belief in the desirability of a just and durable peace. Our commitment to this pursuit is total and absolute. My country's unique geo-political location has heightened our awareness of the pivotal regional role we play, and of the particular need for security. It has imposed a disproportionately heavy responsibility for our own national defence and Arab regional security. Jordan occupies the first defence line for the Arab World in the conflict with Israel. In strategic terms we bear the burden of the forward position, both in war and in peace; and we have borne that responsibility with honour and pride.

The Amman Arab Summit Conference held in November of last year has provided support and encouragement to persist in our endeavour for a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war. It has marked a turning point in the history of inter-Arab relations. The evolving patterns of interdependence and the complementarities between the various parts of the Arab polity, in terms of interests and resources, both political and economic, are to be deployed for the common good of all. Differences in perceptions and expectations may exist but they are to be transcended in favour of collective concord, beneficial to all.

The Arab League's Committee of Eight, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Abfelaziz Khelef, entrusted a group of experts to assess the work of the ailing regional agencies dealing with social and economic cooperation among the member states. Jordan has played a constructive role in the attempts to evolve a new approach in this field. His Majesty King Hussein, in his capacity as Chairman of the last Arab Summit, participated in the deliberations of the Committee when it met in Amman earlier this month. He called on the Committee to address the problem with candour and realism, and pledged his full support to this endeavour.

There is no doubt that a fresh sense of realism is taking hold in the Arab World. The politics of empty rhetoric is being overshadowed by a more pragmatic approach to our common problems. The emerging patterns of regional cooperation can be extended and widened to involve Europe within a Eurasian framework. The site to the dispute will participate. It will also be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council. This proposal has been supported and accepted by all except a faction in the Israeli government and some circles in the United States. The sooner this conference is convened the quicker the misery and oppression of the Palestinian Arabs can be lifted.

Superpower cooperation and the unanimous vote on U.N. Security Council resolution 598 to end the Gulf war was also welcomed by the Arab leaders at the Amman Summit. It is rather refreshing to see that the U.N. peace machinery is given a new lease of life. The agreement of the two superpowers is a measure of their recognition that the war in the Gulf poses the most immediate threat to world peace.

Their cooperation has injected a fresh impetus in the work of the world body, and has given us all hope that the superpowers have at last agreed to tackle world problems earnestly. American-Soviet collaboration in this field is long overdue. Our hopes and expectations are that the spirit of their new approach will continue to prosper and succeed.

It is imperative that there should be no complacency and no more delay in the implementation of the U.N. resolutions to resolve the conflicts in the Middle East. Consensus and unanimity should not be an end in itself. It offers the world a marvellous opportunity for effective international action to resolve problems which have become of concern to the international community as a whole. Let it not be a wasted one. The U.N. secretary general should increase his effort and capitalise on current collaboration to grapple with all major conflicts that threaten world peace and security. Left in abeyance, and allowed to drift, these disputes become more complex and intractable to the detriment of all concerned.

At the Amman Summit, the Arab Heads of State also recognised that numerous opportunities have been missed in the

search for a solution to all outstanding disputes in the Middle East. For their part, they have attempted to rectify the situation. The commitment to the U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 598, on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war respectively, has been reaffirmed. Security Council Resolution 242 provides a sound and practical method for the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It offers the exchange of

territory for peace which is the basis on which the settlement between Egypt and Israel has been concluded. Since the ratification of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel almost ten years ago, the only proposal which has kept the peace process alive and viable is His Majesty King Hussein's for the convening of an international peace conference under the auspices of the U.N. In this conference all par-

ties to the dispute will participate. It will also be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council. This proposal has been supported and accepted by all except a faction in the Israeli government and some circles in the United States. The sooner this conference is convened the quicker the misery and oppression of the Palestinian Arabs can be lifted.

The site goes back 5,000 years to the time of the Dilmunians, traders from Sumeria in Iraq. Sumerian lords named Dilmun as a paradise and Bahrain, replete with freshwater springs, may have been the origin of the Biblical Garden of Eden.

Randa Habib's Corner

Warning...

SMOKING is a bad habit that is so popular in our society. The cigarette has become part of our social life. In good mood or in bad mood, with a cup of coffee, or as an "after dinner" delight, cigarettes burn in our hands and damage our lungs.

The Ministry of Health has started a campaign to warn people against the dangers of smoking.

Smoking is now banned in public buildings and in public transport. How much these regulations are being adhered to is difficult to tell, but this is definitely a good step on the right direction.

Advertisement for cigarettes has for long been forbidden in Jordan's newspapers and on T.V. The import of chocolates or candies, wrapped in cigarette-like boxes is also banned. Tobacco houses and manufacturers are not allowed to sponsor any sport or cultural activity.

But it seems that all the restrictions of the world will not be enough to put us off smoking unless we change our attitudes towards the habit. Children should be taught at a very young age about the dangers of smoking, and should be trained to despise the cigarette. Among adults no one should feel obliged to offer cigarettes to his or her guests.

I was personally very pleased last Thursday to hear one of our friends, a heavy smoker in the past, who has now become a staunch anti-smoking campaigner say: "I will not offer you any cigarette and I would be grateful if you could abstain from smoking in my house." I found him very courageous, and I might soon take his example.

Bahrain fort excavators dig into ancient empires

By Patrick Werr

Reuter

BAHRAIN — Archaeologists in Bahrain have started to dig through 5,000 years of history, hoping to shed light on a pre-Biblical Middle Eastern epic and the Asian travels of Alexander the Great.

The archaeologists and architects, funded by the United Nations and the Bahrain government, will initially explore and restore the site of a Portuguese fort on Bahrain's north coast.

But the 16th-century fort, perched on a hill rising above date groves to a commanding view of the Gulf, is just the beginning.

The nine-metre hill itself is the accumulated debris of earlier worlds — Roman, Greek, Babylonian, Persian, Assyrian and Sumerian. The site goes back 5,000 years to the time of the Dilmunians, traders from Sumeria in Iraq.

Sumerian lords named Dilmun as a paradise and Bahrain, replete with freshwater springs, may have been the origin of the Biblical Garden of Eden.

Restoration first priority

To preserve the now crumbling and endangered fort is the archaeologists' first priority, but later digging will penetrate the earliest periods of the island's rich history.

"It is an extremely wide and very well-preserved site," said Monik Kevran, a French archaeologist from the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique.

Kevran has studied the area for ten years and in November she began a detailed excavation of the fort after the U.N. Development Programme provided \$148,000 to fund two years of work at the site.

The Bahrain government intends to develop the island's embryo tourist industry and will renovate the site and support the dig after the first two years.

Man's encroachments have lent urgency to the project.

Land reclamation near the fort has blocked the natural drainage of ground water to the sea, raising the water table by a metre, and farms are being extended onto the ruins. Erosion has weakened the towers.

The massive stone fort is the most recent of three stacked one above the other. Persian princes running commercial empires built the earlier forts during the preceding centuries.

The team will also seek clues to the 4,000-year-old Middle Eastern epic of Gilgamesh which pre-dated the Bible with its legend of a flood that destroyed the ancient world.

The hero Gilgamesh came to Bahrain to seek out Sus Ziuza, the survivor of the great flood, in a quest for immortality.

He told Gilgamesh to find the pearl of immortality by tying a stone to his feet and jumping into the sea — a technique Gulf pearl divers used up to modern times.

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Baldi fights back into lead in Daytona rally

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (AP) — The Porsche 962 prototype of Italian Mauro Baldi and two-time winners Bob Wollek of France and Brian Redman of England battled back into the lead Sunday in the 18th hour of the sunbank Daytona 24-hours.

However, with one quarter of the grueling twice-around-the-clock race still to run, one car remained on the same lap as the leader and two others within striking distance.

The Jaguar XJR-9 prototype of American-born Eddie Cheever, Englishman Johnny Dumfries and John Watson of Northern Ireland was in second place, just 16.12 seconds behind the leader on the 5.6-kilometre (3.56-mile) road course at Daytona International Speedway.

That car was followed a lap back by the Jaguar of teammates Raul Boesel of Brazil, John Nielsen of Denmark and Martin Brundle of England.

The Porsche 962 of defending champions Al Holbert, Chip Robinson and Englishman Derek Bell led through most of the night, surviving an early-morning rain before losing 23 minutes and seven laps in the pits because of a turbocharger problem early in the 18th hour. However, the trio remained fourth and began to cut into the gap.

The third Jaguar in Scotsman Tom Walkinshaw's stable led for a while early Sunday and was still in second place after dawn. But the car, shared by Americans Danny Sullivan and Davy Jones

and Jan Lammers of the Netherlands, went out of the race during the 18th hour with a mechanical problem.

"The oil temperature went up," Lammers explained. "We hit debris during the night and... blocked part of the radiator. I think that caused the problems. We were driving with too high temperatures for too long, and that damaged the motor."

The leader was averaging 169.6 kmph (106.4 mph) after 18 hours.

All five of those cars had battled through Saturday evening and the pre-dawn hours Sunday.

The two remaining Jaguars hope to end the dominance of Porsche in the IMSA Camel GT Series' season-opening race.

Porsche prototypes have won at

Daytona seven years in a row, while cars powered by Porsche engines have won America's most prestigious endurance race 11 times in a row.

Another victim of mechanical problems was the Porsche 962 of two-time Daytona winners A.J. Foyt and Al Unser Jr. and teammate Elliott Forbes-Robinson.

After hanging in the top 10 through the night, the car went more than an hour in the pits just before dawn to replace fifth gear.

Napoli clinches top Italian League position

ROME (R) — Diego Maradona's Napoli extended their lead at the top of the Italian First Division to four points Sunday with a comprehensive 3-1 away win at Ascoli.

Ascoli enjoyed brief glory after their Brazilian striker Casagrande scored in a counter-attack in the 11th minute, but three minutes later Napoli's Argentine captain equalised from the penalty spot and after that the champions were in command.

In the 27th minute Bruno Giordano put Napoli ahead after a cross from Brazilian striker Careca, who himself scored their third goal in the 49th minute from a neat pass by defender Giovanni Franci.

Maradona's younger brother Hugo watched the match from the Ascoli benches. Hugo, 18, has failed to find a regular place in Ascoli's first team since he joined this season.

But it was 27-year-old Diego's 10th goal this season and his fourth from the penalty spot. He is the League's top scorer with Cagliari in second place on eight goals.

Second-placed A.C. Milan managed a 1-1 draw at Fiorentina despite playing 20 minutes of the

second half with only 10 men following Antonio Virdis' dismissal for a series of fouls.

Fiorentina, who have suffered

crowd protests recently because of poor performances, went

ahead three minutes after half-time, when Roberto Baggio

pushed a ball through to winger

Roberto Di Chiara who chipped

home from the left of the goal.

Liverpool crushes Aston Villa

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — Second half goals by England international striker John Barnes and Peter Beardsley gave Liverpool a 2-0 victory over Second Division leader Aston Villa Sunday and a place in the fifth round of the F.A. (Football Association) Soccer Cup.

Barnes struck with a 53rd minute header and Beardsley scored the second four minutes from time as Liverpool, the runaway First Division leader, snuffed out Villa's challenge before a capacity 49,000 crowd at Villa Park.

The result meant that Liverpool, which is unbeaten in the League, has not conceded a goal in its last nine games stretching back to before Christmas.

Second-placed A.C. Milan

managed a 1-1 draw at Fiorentina despite playing 20 minutes of the

Paraguayan Davis Cup squad leaves for Prague

ASUNCION (R) — Paraguay's Davis Cup squad left for Prague Friday night with high hopes of defeating Czechoslovakia, but without their star player Victor Pecci, who is recovering from a hernia.

"It's going to be a tough match and we know the quality of the Czechs, but we are not going to let them intimidate us," team captain Alberto Gross Brown told reporters before leaving for Prague for the first-round world group tie.

Paraguay are pinning their hopes on Hugo Chapacu and Francisco Gonzalez to make up for the absence of the 32-year-old

Pecci, who recently underwent surgery for a hernia and will miss the competition Feb. 5-7.

The 27-year-old Chapacu has been training in Spain and will arrive in Prague Sunday, as will Gonzalez, 32, who has been training in the United States.

Victor Caballero and Roberto Stagni, both of whom have scant international experience, travelled with Gross Brown.

Paraguay have a history of shock upsets in Davis Cup play.

They beat the Czechoslovak squad led by Ivan Lendl 3-2 in Asuncion in 1983 and last year scored a major upset over the United States in Asuncion.

GOETHE-INSTITUT AMMAN

The Goethe-Institute Amman announces

the opening of the following courses:

1. Conversation course for those with a good command of the German language from Feb. 1 to May 23, 1988. Persons interested are requested to come to the institute on Monday, Feb. 1 at 5.30 p.m.

2. Bibliotheksgespräche — a course on German literature for Germans or foreigners with a very good command of the German language from Feb. 8 to May 30, 1988. Persons interested are requested to come to the institute on Monday, Feb. 8 at 8 p.m.

For more information contact t.c. 641993 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

except on Fridays and Sundays.



Soviets' shining star Larinov in action

Favourites for gold in Calgary

By Barry Wilner

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — World champions Brian Orser of Canada and Katarina Witt of East Germany are the favourites for gold in the Winter Olympics figure skating competition but Americans Brian Boitano and Debi Thomas are not far behind.

Despite four consecutive national titles and the 1986 world crown, Boitano is rated second to Orser. Thomas, who also won the U.S. and World Championships in 1986, is ranked behind Witt.

Although the United States is sending one of its strongest figure skating teams ever to the Winter Games, only Boitano and Thomas appear likely to challenge for gold medals. Soviet couples are heavy favourites in both pairs and dance, the other two disciplines.

Boitano skated unimpressively in the freestyle at the U.S. Championships, yet still won easily and wasn't particularly disturbed.

Orser, who won the 1987 World Championship after four straight runner-up finishes in the major international events (1984 Olympics) and Worlds, 1985 and '86 Worlds) has more flash to his skating.

The difference could come down to whether the judges view Orser the way they did Scott Hamilton in 1984. Hamilton, who won four straight World Championships, had the gold medal locked up at Sarajevo as long as he didn't fall. He didn't and even though Orser skated better in the short and long programmes.

Boitano was fifth at the Sarajevo Games.

If the judges feel Orser deserves the same stature as Hamilton — and with the Olympics on his home ice — Boitano has little chance.

But Boitano's freestyle programme, skated to music from TV's "Napoleonic and Josephine," is as difficult as any skated at an Olympics. If Boitano peaks at Calgary, Orser will need a sparkling routine beat him.

They figure to be 1-2, even though Alexander Fadeev of the Soviet Union, the 1985 world champion, will be in Calgary, making it the first time three men's world champions will meet in an Olympics.

Fadeev is the strongest in tracing compulsory figures, the first part of the competition, but he lacks the freestyle skills of Orser and Boitano.

Witt, a three-time world champion, skated magnificently in the recent European Championships to defend her title. She tends to finish



Orser: A magician of the ice.

behind the Soviets in the compulsories, then dominates the short and long programmes.

Thomas' freestyle, like Witt's, will be to music from "Carmen." The American's coach, Alex McGowan, reminds everyone that Debi very nearly defended her title at the worlds last year while skating with an injured foot.

Thomas has overcome the foot problems and clearly was the best in an outstanding field at the national. Like Witt, Orser and Boitano, this is her final year as an amateur.

"I want to go out in style," she said. "I've been dreaming about the Olympics for so long... forever."

If the judges feel Witt deserves the same stature as Hamilton — and with the Olympics on her home ice — Boitano has little chance.

U.S. trainer Carlo Fassi believes in his skaters. He also believes in Witt.

"I think for Katarina to lose, she must fall down a few times," Fassi said. "But if she does, any of the U.S. girls can win."

Kira Ivanova of the Soviet Union is the best compulsory skater in the world. But she is less convincing than her rivals in the short and long programmes.

Guaruja, Brazil (R) — Ross Norman of New Zealand moved to within one match of winning a \$26,000 diamond-studded squash ball when he beat Australian Brett Martin 9-6, 9-6, 9-3 in the semifinals of the Belgian Grand Prix tournament Saturday.

The ball has been offered by the organisers to the first player to win the tournament three times in a five-year period — and Norman won here in 1986 and 1987.

"The prospect of winning the trophy doesn't make me more nervous," Norman said. "It's just another pay check."

Norman, the 1986 world champion and currently ranked number four in the world, took the

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U.S. basketball roundup

Kings nest 126 to beat Suns in road games

FRANKFURT, West Germany (R) — World number one Ivan Lendl's new, more aggressive style of serve and volley seemed to pay off in the last of a three-match exhibition series against local hero Boris Becker Sunday.

He recorded a 6-4, 7-5 victory against the West German, ranked number four in the world, making up a little for two earlier defeats against him in Tokyo and a disappointing loss to Australia's Pat Cash in the semifinals of the Australian Open.

Lendl said: "You are going to see me doing a lot of serve and volley in the future. You may see me losing a few matches but I am looking at the longer term... it's not going to hurt me."

Pakistan retains Asian squash crown

KUWAIT (R) — World champions Pakistan trounced Singapore 3-0 to retain their Asian squash crown.

Despite a spirited fight, Singapore's top players were unable to topple the formidable trio of Jahangir Khan, Umer Hayat and Qamar Zaman in the team competition finals of the fourth Asian Squash Championship on Saturday.

Khan faced a minor challenge in the match with Zeinul Abdin, who at times looked like he might upset the world number two. But Khan romped home 9-5, 9-4, 9-6 and his colleagues racked up wider victories.

Zaman lashed Ong Soo Heng 9-1, 9-4, 9-2, while Hayat dispensed with Anthony Chua 9-5, 9-4, 9-2.

Jordan bags 4th place

Jordan beat Hong Kong 2-1 for fourth place. Top seven teams in order of finish: Pakistan, Singapore, Malaysia, Jordan, Hong Kong, India and Kuwait.

Teltscher, Mattar reach final of Brazilian tennis

GUARUJA, Brazil (R) — American Eliot Teltscher and Brazil's Luiz Mattar posted straight-set victories Saturday to set up a meeting of the top two seeds in the final of the \$130,000 Guaruja Grand Prix tennis tournament.

Teltscher, the number one seed, needed just over an hour to defeat unseeded Damilo Marcellino of Brazil 6-1, 6-4.

The 21-year-old Marcellino, who upset Uruguay's Diego Perez to reach the semifinals, could not help but be impressed with the play of Teltscher, ranked 22nd in the world.

"The only one here who could beat him is Mattar, and even then only on a very inspired day," Marcellino said.

Mattar, Brazil's top player, beat unseeded Canadian Martin Wostenholme 6-3, 6-3.

On Friday Wostenholme dubbed Mattar "Mr. Brazil," implying that he played well only in his own country.

U.S. basketball roundup

Kings nest 126 to beat Suns in road games

PHOENIX, Arizona (AP) — Otis Thorpe scored 24 points and Kenny Smith had eight of his 22 in the third period as Sacramento beat Phoenix 126-120, the Kings' second victory in 17 road games and the Suns' eighth straight loss.

Sacramento's only other road victory came here Dec. 26 when the Kings beat Phoenix 112-110.

Walter Davis paced Phoenix with 22 points and passed the 15,000 Plateau in his 11-year career, while rookie Armin Gilliam had a career-high 21.

The score was tied 10 times before Thorpe's jumper 49 seconds before halftime, and Reggie Theus' free throw with six seconds left put the Kings ahead to stay at 61-58.

Sacramento opened the third quarter with a 12-2 run.

Jazz, 115, Hawks 109

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Thuri Bailey scored five of his 33 points in the final minute as the Utah Jazz downed

Jordan attends trade talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the 44th meeting of Arab Economic and Social Council (AESC) which is due to open in Tunis Monday.

The four-day meeting will follow on the implementation of resolutions issued at the previous meeting and the financial condition of the Arab League affiliated organisations.

In addition, the delegates will discuss the questions of Arab food security, inter-Arab trade and recommendations by a spe-

cial technical committee on statistics.

Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Tabba', who leads the Jordanian delegation, left for Tunis Sunday, accompanied by three other members from the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The general secretariat of the Council of Arab Economic Unity will also take part in the meeting which is to be attended by ministers of economy and finance in Arab states.

Poles march against price hikes

WARSAW (AP) — Several thousand Solidarity supporters, chanting "no more price hikes" and "strike tomorrow" marched Sunday through the streets of Gdansk to protest increases announced by the government the previous day.

Lech Walesa and other leaders of the outlawed Free Trade Union demanded that officials rescind the steepest price hikes since the grim days of martial law six years ago.

The increases range from 40 to 200 per cent for most basic foodstuffs, fuel and energy, alcohol, cigarettes, transportation and services. Food costs will be the first to go up, with a 40 per cent

increase to be implemented Monday.

After a meeting in Gdansk, Walesa and other members of Solidarity's National Executive Commission issued a statement saying the government move "blocks necessary economic reforms... and increases social tensions."

"The inevitability of collapse is obvious," said the statement, read over the telephone by Solidarity National Spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz. "We demand the withdrawal of the price rises whose consequences are... downright tragic for some."

The statement did not specifically call for any protest actions.

Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. modernises machinery

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company put into operation last month the second of two enormous new pieces of mining equipment for the mines of Al Hassa and Al Aqab located between Amman and Ma'an. The company expects efficiencies from using the machines to help it keep prices for Jordanian phosphates low enough to compete favourably in the world market.

The draglines were purchased from Bucyrus-Erie Company in Milwaukee, Wisconsin through the commodity import programme (CIP) financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and managed jointly by USAID and the Ministry of Planning.

The programme provided about \$13 million in foreign ex-

change financing for the draglines.

Named the "walking draglines," for its style of locomotion, the machine's control room is nearly five stories high, and its boom up to 90 metres long. The bolt-together construction of the Bucyrus-Erie dragline allows it to be disassembled and trucked to different locations. The manufacturer has assigned an engineer to work one year on site with Jordan Phosphate Mines Company personnel to train them in assembly and maintenance procedures.

During the 1950s the work of removing the sand overburden and then mining the phosphate was done laboriously and expensively by hand. In contrast, the dragline buckets lift 60 tons of earth and move it at speeds of nearly 200 kilometres per hour.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carol Richter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a good time to go on any longs to peer business projects, home and family affairs and personal matters. Avoid doing anything which would hurt a good friend's feelings.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Your judgment is apt to be a little off-center right now, so use special care handling financial matters or when speaking with friends.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Use more care in handling your financial reports or statements, as well as when dealing with those of your friends or clients.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't get upset over a bill you have checked it carefully — you may be in error. Be especially careful with your finances tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A tense situation which arises tonight should be ignored. Be sure to keep any important promises you have made recently.

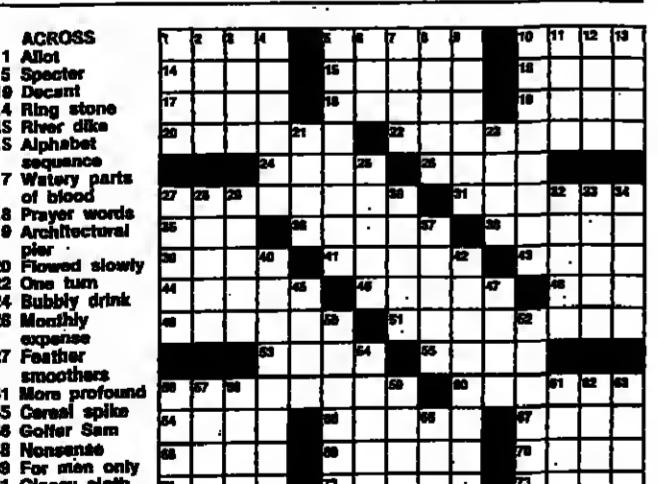
GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Give plenty of thought to an important monetary matter or you could lose a bundle. Avoid contact with a self-appointed expert.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be sure to steer clear of a greedy, domineering individual. Use your imagination and find a way to improve your income.

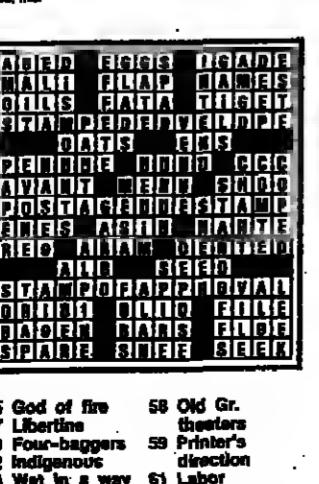
LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Don't let a private anxiety make you act unreasonably. Think before you act.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't get into a new commitment if it will take more time than you really have to spare. This is not a good time to take any financial risks.

THE Daily Crossword



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Industrial investments in Jordan decline

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of JD 15 million was invested in industrial projects in Jordan during the past year compared with JD 20 million during 1986, according to Sawi Al Shaab newspaper. The paper quoted sources at the Ministry of Industry and Trade as saying that capital during 1987 was invested in industries manufacturing plastic products, engineering equipment, furniture, kitchens, doors, paper, textiles, chemicals, leather and other agricultural produce.

Ministry demands licence for imports

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade has banned merchants from importing foreign goods without first acquiring an import licence from the ministry. A report in the local press said that no one is allowed to open a letter of credit or order the dispatch of goods to Jordan without the required licence. According to the report, the ministry places all responsibility for any unfavourable results in transactions of this nature on the importers.

TCC disconnects thousands of phone lines

AMMAN (J.T.) — The telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has disconnected thousands of telephone lines for subscribers who failed to pay outstanding bills until September 1987. According to a report in the Ad Dostour newspaper, tens of subscribers who were affected by the decision, packed the TCC's payment centres to settle their balances. The TCC usually charges JD 5 as reconnection fees. The corporation has taken steps to facilitate payment procedures by extending working hours at various TCC centres and banks.

Economist examines relations between U.S., Arab World

AMMAN (J.T.) — Responding to an invitation from the Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University, the president of the Arab Society for the Protection of Industrial Property (ASPIP), Talal Abu Ghazaleh, delivered a lecture, last week entitled "Impediments to U.S.-Arab Economic Relations".

In his lecture, Abu Ghazaleh examined the U.S.-Arab economic relations and suggested means to improve these relations to the better understanding of the Arab causes, especially the Palestinian issue. Abu Ghazaleh said the U.S. administration should respond positively to the Arab political issues if it hopes to improve the economic cooperation with the Arab World.

Abu Ghazaleh responded to an invitation by the dean of School of Business Administration at Georgetown University and spent a full day with professors and students discussing matters related to intellectual property and the role of accountancy in economics on the level of the international associations to be helds and especially matters related to the Arab region.

The U.S. visit programme also included the participation of Abu Ghazaleh in the international symposium organised on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of GATT which is a U.N. organisation dealing with international trade.

Poland announces biggest price hikes in six years

WARSAW (R) — The Polish government Saturday announced sweeping price rises for essential goods averaging 27 per cent but raising the cost of food by 40 per cent.

To cushion the blow all workers and state employees will receive immediate pay rises of 6,000 zloties (\$20) per month — about 20 per cent of the average monthly wage.

They are the biggest all-round increases since 1982 when the communist government raised prices 100 per cent as tanks patrolled the streets to prevent protests under martial law.

The announcement by the finance and labour ministries said a first round of price rises would take effect Monday.

Food prices would go up 40 per cent, petrol 60 per cent, diesel fuel 100 per cent, bus and rail fares 50 per cent and rents for state-owned accommodation by 50 per cent.

The prices of alcohol and cigarettes would jump 42 per cent and 40 per cent respectively, the announcement added.

A second round of increases on April 1 will raise the price of coal 200 per cent and gas, electricity and central heating by 100 per cent.

Despite becoming almost an annual event since 1982, the increases have had little effect on the government's huge expenditure in subsidising essential goods and services.

Otrage among workers against sudden meat price rises in 1970 and 1980 led to upbrawls and the ouverture of Poland's former communist leaders Wladyslaw Gomulka and Edward Gierk.

There have been no signs of unrest in recent weeks as authorities debated the latest increases.

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Otrage among workers against sudden meat price rises in 1970 and 1980 led to upbrawls and the ouverture of Poland's former communist leaders Wladyslaw Gomulka and Edward Gierk.

There have been no signs of unrest in recent weeks as authorities debated the latest increases.

Food prices would go up 40 per cent, petrol 60 per cent, diesel fuel 100 per cent, bus and rail fares 50 per cent and rents for state-owned accommodation by 50 per cent.

The prices of alcohol and cigarettes would jump 42 per cent and 40 per cent respectively, the announcement added.

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South Africa's divided liberals fight for political life

CAPE TOWN (R) — While South Africa's far right is mounting its strongest bid for power, the white liberal opposition is fighting for its political life.

Political analysts say the fragmented anti-apartheid parties, badly mauled in a whites-only general election last year, risk annihilation if President P.W. Botha calls another general election this year.

"They are all lurching from disaster to disaster," said Robert Schrire, professor of political studies at the university of Cape Town.

The liberal groups could avoid further losses if an election were held now by uniting, Schrire said. "If they can't, they will lose half of what they have."

The liberals' Achilles heel remains law and order, the issue which cost them votes last year. The white electorate shunned their message of conciliation and instead voted for a stronger crackdown on black opposition.

Last year's overwhelming election victory by the ruling National Party (NP) led to months of bickering and post mortems among liberals.

The Progressive Federal Party

October. Their moves have been given added urgency by mounting speculation that Botha will call an early general election.

"The PFP can hardly afford the luxury of interminable internecine squabbles while its opponents already are out in strength organising and canvassing for the coming elections," the liberal Cape Times said in an editorial.

The liberal parties are seeking alliances not only among themselves but with extra-parliamentary groups and parties in the Indian and coloured houses of the tricameral parliament, which excludes the black majority.

The centrist New Republic Party, which saw its parliamentary team cut from five to one in last May's election, appears close to an alliance with Worrall's independents.

The Independent Movement, launched before the election amid much fanfare, broke up when its founders, ex-South African Ambassador to Britain Denis Worrall and former National Party member Wynand Malan, went their separate ways.

But now there are signs that the liberals are beginning to unite for municipal elections due in

Genscher calls for release of E. German dissidents

BONN (R) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher appealed to East Germany's Communist leadership

Saturday to release men and women imprisoned during a recent crackdown on dissent.

East Germany's Protestant Church also called for the release of at least 10 dissidents from church-affiliated peace and human rights groups still in detention after an abortive demonstration two weeks ago.

"We call on the East German leadership to replace criminal proceedings with dialogue and tolerance," Genscher told members of his Free Democratic Party (FDP), one of three parties in Bonn's centre-right federal government.

"We call on the East German leadership to release the detainees and to open discussions with the young."

Around 200 activists were imprisoned by East German authorities this month when some of them tried to join an official march commemorating two German revolutionaries murdered in 1919.

Most were later freed, but last Monday police swooped on another six dissidents, among them now in custody.

Genscher said the dissidents had gathered peacefully and "cannot understand that the society they live in... can mistrust them so much, and even start criminal proceedings against them."

A statement read to more than 2,300 people crammed into East Berlin's Gethsemane Church said the Protestant Church "now as before calls for the release of those detained and supports their family members."

East Berlin's bishop, Gottfried Forck, said in a sermon that all activists should show restraint and the government should be tolerant.

Also last week, local officials said a corpse turned up on El Playon, a lava flow outside the capital which was notorious as a dumping ground for bodies during the heyday of the death squads. It was believed to be the first time a body was left there for a few years.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OSCAR SHARIF
1987 Trunk Area Services Inc.

EACH TRICK IN ITS TIME

Both vulnerable South deals.

NORTH ♦ Q 9 8 3
Q 7 3 2
10 4
♦ 7 6 3

WEST ♦ A 10 8 7
Q 9 8 6 4 3
7 3
♦ 10
♦ J 9 8 5 4 2

SOUTH ♦ K J 5 2
Q 10
♦ A K Q 8 5 2
♦ A K Q

The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♦ Pass 2 NT Pass

3 ♦ Pass 4 ♦ Pass

5 ♦ Pass 6 ♦ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♦

The order in which you cash winning tricks can be of the utmost importance. Seldom has this concept been illustrated more graphically than on this deal.

North-South reached a fair six-spade contract. South's bid of five spades asked North to evaluate his trump holding for slam purposes, and North felt that, in view of his negative response and minimal raise, the queen of spades justified

Republican rivals shift energy to key vote in Iowa

GRAND RAPIDS (Agencies) — The Republican presidential rivals, seeking their party's backing to run for election in 1988 and fresh from a fractious state party convention, are shifting their energy to a key vote in Iowa.

"We move on tomorrow. The story is going to Iowa," Jack Kemp Campaign Chairman Ed Rollins told reporters Saturday. "Michigan is now forever off the lips of all of us."

At Michigan state party convention Saturday, Vice President George Bush and New York Congressman Kemp split the support of 69 of the 77 delegates Michigan will send to the Republican National Convention in August, where the party will choose its presidential nominee.

Disappointed backers of former TV Evangelist Pat Robertson deserted the official convention and compiled their own rival list of delegates to go to New Orleans for the convention.

The Michigan hurdle over, candidates now await Des Moines Register newspaper endorsements Sunday in Iowa, where the fight for each party's presidential nomination is kicked off on Feb. 8 in local party meetings called caucuses.

Backing by the Register appears particularly important in the Democratic race, where Mis-

Sihanouk resignation 'could be another bluff'

PEKING (R) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk's latest resignation from the leadership of the three-party Kampuchean guerrilla coalition could be only a bluff, a well-informed Asian diplomat said Sunday.

Sihanouk's move does not spell the end of peace talks with the Vietnamese-backed Kampuchean government, but is aimed at pressuring his uneasy guerrilla allies and China, their main backer, said the source, who maintains close contacts with Sihanouk aides.

"You could say he's just crying wolf," the diplomat added. Sihanouk has at least three times before returned to head the coalition after announcing that he was stepping down.

The mercurial leader was at his Peking mansion but unavailable for comment Sunday, after announcing his "irrevocable and irreversible" resignation Saturday.

The diplomat noted that Sihanouk's statement said he would place his guerrilla army under the leadership of his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh and that it would continue to fight Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea alongside the coalition's other two factions.

Dhaka opposition criticises banning more newspapers

DHAKA (R) — The banning of two more newspapers became the focus Sunday of continuing Bangladeshi opposition attacks on President Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

In a joint statement the two sides agreed to jointly monitor at least one nuclear test in each country. Barker said it had not been decided which side would conduct the first monitored test.

The method by which kiloton yields would be measured to both sides' satisfaction has been a major stumbling block to a testing pact. One of the purposes of the exchange of visits by scientists was to iron out a "joint verification experiment" agreed at a initial round of negotiations in Geneva last November.

Barker said disagreement over the U.S.-preferred Cortex system of measuring yields had been greatly exaggerated.

"Both sides have been making an equal effort," Palenky said.

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